

Voters for Equitable & Responsible Growth

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Peninsula residents and small business owners from neighborhoods impacted by excessive office growth in the Mid-Peninsula have drawn a line in the sand. **Voters For Equitable & Responsible Growth** (VERG) will be a new voice demanding their elected officials to think like residents and act like leaders capable of enacting sensible land use policy.

The Mid Peninsula has reached the tipping point. Housing shortages and prices caused by the growing employee population have reached unprecedented levels. Traffic has become intolerable due to commuters trying to reach their homes in communities miles from their jobs. Frustrated by the congestion, commuters turn to the Google-owned app Waze that sends drivers through residential neighborhoods. Morning and afternoon cut through traffic traveling at excessive speeds has changed neighborhoods and created unsafe streets.

The most recent commercial development proposal by Facebook in Menlo Park will create an office complex of 2.6 million square feet. The employee population after the new addition will be approximately 13,000, a number that is more than twice the population of Belle Haven, a neighborhood that is adjacent to the massive Facebook campus.

Voters For Equitable & Responsible Growth is a group of residents from neighborhoods on the Mid Peninsula who believe that the Menlo Park City Council has gone too far. The Council has encouraged office developers to think of Menlo Park as a town where there are few restraints on commercial development. The impending Menlo Park General Plan Update will facilitate a boom of 50% population and 70% employee growth. This council has neglected to seek a balance between office buildings and the need for housing. Our communities are swamped by office commuters who have no choice but to seek housing in less expensive and distant communities. Displacement of current residents is on the rise causing the loss of a valuable segment of our diverse community. Teachers, sales clerks, waiters, graduate students, auto mechanics, librarians, dental hygienists and other workers are being priced out of the Mid-Peninsula.

We will be submitting our comments on the Facebook and General Plan Draft Environmental Impact Reports. It is our intention to marshal our communities for a



